import cloves. To promote production of cloves, Government arranges supply of planting material, provides irrigation facilities, etc.

Export of Coffee

5312. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coffee exported particularly from Karnataka during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is a great demand for Indian Coffee in the international market; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to boost export of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The quantity of coffee exported through Mangalore Port of Karnataka and the total exports of coffee from India during the last three fiscal years are as under:

Year	Total Export (Tonnes)	From Mangalore Port (Tonnes)
1988-89	98266	45680
1989-90	134052	44728
1990-91	100110	42691

(b) The steady increase in the exports of coffee from 33189 tonnes in 1970-71 to 100110 tonnes in 1990-91 reveals the increase in demand for Indian Coffee in the International market.

(c) Besides readjustment of exchange rate, the Government has recently introduced the EXIM Scrip in place of REP licence, which is expected to help in boosting export of coffee.

Talks with Traders on Price Rise

5313. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had invited traders to discuss the issue of price rise;

(b) if so, when and the outcome of the discussion held;

(c) whether any directives have been issued to the traders in this regard; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it will help in checking the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). The Finance Minister, in paragraph 129 of the Budget Speech has *inter alia* announced that he would invite the representatives of industry and trade to work out the modalities for realisation of the objectives in regard to prices of essential commodities Follow-up action on the announcement made in the Budget, 1991-92, is under way.

Short-Term Credit From Commercial Banks

5314. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: